

# The good that's always there

All too often, as we deal with the ups and downs of life and the trials and tribulations of meeting our obligations, we lose sight of the fact that there is much more good than bad in our world today. Too often, however, it is hidden by the doom and gloom attitudes that invade our lives.

The good really came to the surface during the recent week of fire fury. It arrived in the form of brave firefighters who risked their own lives to protect others. It appeared in the form of volunteers from every walk of life who turned out to support the efforts of the front line firefighters in a

host of activities vital to the overall effort: traffic direction, preparing and serving food to the firepersons, manning communications and evacuation centers, transportation, and on and on and on.

The good came, also, from the ranks of the public who, in an overwhelming display of caring and concern, donated food, drink, clothing and supplies of virtually every kind. Corporations, which came forth with donations of food, drink and equipment, showed there exists within the corporate being a heart that's mighty large.

If the truth be known, that good is

out there all the time. It's just buried beneath the surface of normal life, waiting to be turned loose by a need, a disaster, a threat to human life. The dramatic fires of recent days were the catalyst to release the goodness that exists.

Yes, there was some bad. There were losses, of 6,000 acres of pine barrens land and some structures. There were some injuries—though thankfully none serious. There was damaged equipment, a loss of business, a disruption of plans and a lot of emotional distress.

The heroic efforts of our firefight-

ers gives us cause to realize how thankful we must be that there are people out there who so willingly offer themselves to help others. Many of the volunteers are self-employed and therefore are not only giving of their time, but of their financial selves as well. Other volunteers are permitted to leave their jobs by generous companies which absorb the loss of time and salary costs.

There are some warning signs that came out of the days of inferno as well. We have, to some degree, a gray-ing fire service, made up of veteran volunteers who have given many years of service. Sooner or later, age creeps up and causes the body to slow down, whether we like it or not. We need to continuously have new volunteers, but the many departments have had difficulties recruiting new members to replenish their ranks. Unless we can encourage a new wave of volunteerism for our fire and other emergency services, we face the threat of a blaze that can't be stopped, an ambulance that doesn't come, or the high cost of fully-paid crews. We need to consider this problem now, before an alarm sounds that is not answered.

Federal, state, county and fire-matic officials will critique the overall actions of the response at each level during the week of fire fury. They will find some lapses of communication, some conflicting levels of jurisdiction, some promises not kept—such as the C-130s that arrived late and did little. For those who enjoy the bad, there can surely be some criticism found to hurl.

We would prefer, however, to dwell on the abundance of good that truly always exists, but doesn't always surface. We would prefer to say to all those who responded so magnificently: Thank you. Thank you for your courage, for your generosity, your willingness to give of yourself. Thank you for being there.

It's unfortunate it takes the bad of a fire emergency to witness so much good, but comforting to know it's there when needed. You have made us all very proud and very grateful.

And why not?

# Think before we jump

Suffolk County Executive Robert Gaffney recently jumped aboard the LILCO takeover bandwagon. We think this endorsement was premature. If the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) were to take over LILCO, it could bring more problems than it could solve. Once the takeover is completed, it is irreversible.

Government agencies do not have a great track record of operating prudently. We are not saying that a takeover in the long run may not be a solution, but before we are committed to this route, we should seriously look at the possibility and costs of having LIPA replicate the transmission and distribution systems of LILCO.

There is a new face to LIPA as of September 1, with an enlarged board and new trustees. It's going to take a bit of time for these new trustees to come up to speed on the takeover plans and the options that exist. During that period, we would hope they will consider other options to the takeover plan that is currently on the table. A partial takeover of the LILCO operation, the transmission lines, would offer an end to the LILCO monopoly, a

means of wheeling competitive power purchased on the open market at the lowest price.

LILCO's system is antiquated. Much of it will have to be replaced sooner or later, most likely sooner. Some of the generating plants are operating beyond their useful life. Most of LILCO's distribution system is above ground, prone to the ravages of storms. Many of the poles and the wires are ancient.

If a takeover of LILCO's lines is not possible, LIPA has the power to recreate a brand-new LILCO distribution system. A new system most likely could be wired underground and ratepayers would not be subject to weeks of electrical outages from acts of Mother Nature.

LIPA, instead of generating, could buy power at the most competitive prices. To fund this undertaking, LIPA could issue tax-free bonds. This would make a lot more sense than buying the whole company with their bad management mistakes and their incredible debts that are sinking the Island. The unions would love it, as it would create thousands of jobs. Wall Street, not

involved with LILCO, would see a big cash bonus for marketing the securities. The ratepayers would jump for joy, for they would be rid of the LILCO debt and reduce their electrical bills by almost half.

We wish the new LIPA board members well in the challenging task that lies ahead. They will have to dodge bullets from those who have long wanted to see LIPA abolished. Some politicians looked at LIPA as a threatening breeding ground for future political challengers, others feared its power, still others looked at this agency as a threat to their own financial motives.

And they have the burden of coming up with a plan that will rid Long Island of LILCO's monopolistic arrogance, and bring vitally needed rate relief to the region, its businesses and its residents. That's a mighty challenging task that will take time, wisdom and courage.

The time is now to come up with the hard figures. This is not the time to jump on a bailout of the speculators who own LILCO. Let's know all the facts before we jump.

And why not?

# 6 trucks, 8 men equal one white line

We have all heard the ethnic jokes about how many (your choice, you name the ethnic group) does it take to change a light bulb. Depending upon your background, they may be funny. But there is absolutely nothing funny about six \$100,000 plus trucks, manned by eight New York State Department of Transportation employees, applying a single white line between the edge of the road and the shoulder.

Recently, we observed this wanton waste of our tax money on Sunrise Highway and the exit ramps. We don't know whether this is just plain damn lousy management or a feather-bedding, contractual union labor negotiation. Even the employees themselves,

who may be drawing down a salary, have to be embarrassed about this waste. Worse yet, within the areas of this motorcade are tons of litter, broken asphalt and cracks that need filling. This is a perfect job for privatization.

You can bet your sweet bippy that if the state put this function out to bid, the cost of striping could drop by 70% to 80%.

A couple of years ago on Sunrise, the state brought in private entrepreneurs to replace some of the defective concrete. The first thing about this operation that we noted was the lack of "cones" for miles before you reached the construction area. Only when you

were within a relatively short distance to the construction area did the cones appear.

One piece of equipment and two men were breaking up the old concrete. During the height of the construction, when the broken up concrete was being removed and the bed reset, there were only two or three pieces of equipment and a half-dozen men working. Likewise, there was a limited crew to pour the concrete, and by the next day the area was reopened and traffic was flowing freely.

When the job is done by the state, cones stretch out for miles. There are numerous trucks and pieces of equipment standing idle, and more laborers are observing the job being done than

there are actually working. This is our tax dollars at work, or, better said, not at work, just being wasted.

We believe the employees of the New York State Department of Transportation do want to work. They are not lazy. They see the needs. It's management and the unions that are wasting these resources.

We have a new governor. He has pledged to get New York working again. Here is a perfect place for his administration to start. Someplace that everyone can see the new New York at work. Let's stop the feather-bedding. Allow the state employees to work with vigor and pride.

And why not?

# The time for change is now

Anyone who has ever felt the brunt of regulatory action by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has had horror stories to tell at public hearings about the arrogant, demanding, "do it our way or else" attitude of the DEC. And yet, in other instances, the DEC is the primary cause of ongoing problems without solutions.

For example: North Bay Shore and

Brentwood residents have been complaining about the controversial Quality Resource Corp. (QRC) wood burning cogeneration operation in North Bay Shore for years—voicing concerns about emissions and charging that the plant was causing health problems. A major fire on August 26 increased their concerns.

At the time of the fire, police indicated the fire was expected to burn for some time due to the depth of the chips

and the difficulty in getting to the embers. The stretch of roadway in the vicinity was shut down for the duration of the fire, and officials considered evacuating residents.

The facility does not have the required town operating permit for a transfer station/recycling center and is in violation of several town ordinances.

The 13-acre site does, however, have a permit from the State Department of Environmental Conservation, which has lead agency status on the operation. The DEC permit gives the firm the right to operate despite violations of town laws. It has been urged for years that the DEC require all local ordinances be met before granting such a permit, but those pleas have fallen on deaf ears. Because the DEC is a state agency, its powers exceed those of the local town jurisdiction.

Time and again, local jurisdictions have been stymied in efforts to eliminate problems of transfer station, dumps, and other operations that have DEC permits, and the DEC does little to resolve the problems. A composting operation in the East Moriches area has been the target of concern and anger for years. Located across from a nursing home, the stench it sends around the community has been blamed for health problems. The DEC's actions in dealing with this controversy has been as firm as a wet noodle.

While the actions of the DEC have been the stumbling block to resolving a number of such problems, the courts must also share in the blame. Such is the case in Brookhaven Town, where town officials have diligently been attempting to halt the illegal dumping actions on a site on Bellport Avenue, north of Horseblock Road. Thirty-five-foot high piles of tree trunks, branches, plastic bags, chain link fencing and nail-studded boards appeared on the property, without permit or town approval. While the town was successful in obtaining a temporary restraining order to halt the illegal dumping, a Supreme Court judge modified that order to permit the firm, D&A Excavation, to continue woodchipping activities despite the lack of a town permit.

Continuing their efforts, town officials did obtain a preliminary restraining order calling for an end to the operation and a cleanup of the property. On Sunday, September 3 at approximately 11 p.m., flames shot up from the site about 100 feet in the air. The blaze kept volunteer firefighters from the Medford Fire Department through the Labor Day holiday. Firefighters who risked their lives and labored diligently in battling the infernos in Rocky Point and Westhampton were forced to give up a day of rest to battle flames at an illegal operation that should have been closed and cleaned up long before it grew to its current size.

There has to be a way for judicial officials to govern the actions of their courts so that illegal operations are not permitted to continue. Court actions must be accelerated, rather than dragged out as they are while people suffer the consequences. There has to be justice for all, rather than favoritism for those who flout the laws and disrupt the lives of others.

If DEC permits were not approved until and unless town approval is granted, a number of problems would be ended before they even start. The failure of the DEC to adopt this common sense stance leads to many questions. Why does the DEC permit an operation to illegally exist on a site where a town permit has not been approved? What is the basis for this position? Is it a matter of state supremacy? We have the power, so we make the rules. Is it arrogance? Or just plain stupidity?

Governor George Pataki has talked about needed changes in the way the DEC goes about its business, and in its regulatory actions. This is a place to begin moving in that direction. We would hope the governor would make it clear to the DEC that cooperation with local jurisdictions is a must—that if changes don't come in the regulatory attitudes, there will be changes in the ranks of the enforcers. The time for such action is long past. It must be done now.

And why not?

## Car coverage

# Election 1995

We are well underway with our preparations for covering Election 1995. Our reporters have been assigned candidates to follow. Our questionnaires have been developed and sent out to the candidates.

The questionnaires cover a whole host of issues, ideas and philosophies. Those seeking office are given the opportunity of answering "yes" or "no" to the questions you have indicated you want answers to. Our belief is that when faced with votes in office, in the end, the candidates can only indicate "yea" or "nay". It is the same way with the questionnaires.

If a candidate has refused to indicate either a "yes" or a "no," you can pretty much count on the candidate not wanting the public to know where they stand because the public probably believes differently than they do.

Because of space and time limitations, we limit the participation in the questionnaires and the interviews to only major party candidates. If we had more time, we would interview third party candidates. If we had more space, we would print the answers from all third party candidates. Under the present format, however, it costs us over \$15,000 to print the answers of the major party candidates.

We will be personally interviewing the candidates for our editorial board

endorsements. We spend approximately one-and-a-half hours on each office. We will interview over 80 candidates. On the county level, we will be interviewing the candidates for county executive and all 18 legislative races. In the ten towns, we will be interviewing for those supervisor races held this year and all councilmatic races.

The editorial board is made up of the management and staff of Suffolk Life. The selection of the candidates we do endorse is the consensus of the board. We examine the questionnaires carefully. We go over reporters' notes that were compiled during the process. We review the interviews and then vote on which candidates we feel can best serve the people of Suffolk County and the ten towns that they come from.

We do not always agree and sometimes a member or members of the editorial board feel strongly enough to exercise the option we all have, of writing an opposing viewpoint to the consensus.

Our process is democracy at work. We hope the outcome helps the voters of Suffolk County find the truth in the rhetoric and encourages them to exercise their precious right of casting their vote on Election Day.

And why not?

# Who will raise our children?

Anyone who has had a child, whether it be mother or father, has a fleeting moment right after birth when they first hold the child, when they see their precious infant's life through death. We see the good times and the trials and tribulations of growing and maturing. The parents are always predominant as they help their child through life's mysteries. There is no plan, only trial and error, a set of values, expectations and commitments.

In the day and age when I raised my children, the first four or five years belonged to the parents. On the first day of kindergarten, as we turned our children over to others to educate, to guide and to direct, we did so with trepidation, but also with faith.

The school system was an institution of trust. The teachers would be good. There would be no hidden agendas. The school would work in partnership with us to help our children achieve all that they could be.

Today's schools have become more than educational centers, they are social centers. Children are not only taught their ABC's, but they are taught institutionalized values that may contradict the religious, moral and ethical values of the parents. The history that they learn is not pure and factual; it is molded and manipulated to fulfill someone else's agenda. This is education today. Under the guise of a project called "Goal 2000", it may even be more radical.

"Goal 2000's" agenda is to create an

environment for all American citizens from cradle to grave using the school system as a national nucleus to regiment people to have a predictable outcome. Under the plans of Goal 2000, dossiers, or to be politically correct, portfolios, will be gathered on the students. These portfolios will be computerized, giving the government personal and confidential information. Through the utilization of computers, the future of children will be calculated at an early age, and they will be channeled into the computer model. They will be followed for life.

The educational system in America will be nationalized. The parents' role in their children's upbringing will be minimal. The children's homes will become the school. Their minds will become the

property of the bureaucrats. Scary stuff? You bet!

For the last six months we have been reading about Goal 2000. The ramifications of the project have made a few daily newspapers. A few politicians have stood up to the agenda, most notably, Governor George Allen of Virginia.

The entire concept was developed under President George Bush, who supported a one world concept, and it has been championed since the day after the election by Hillary Clinton. If you thought Hillary's national health care program was scary, or born out of secrecy, wait until you get a load of what is in store for your children under the guise of education. Is this your vision of America of Year 2000? It is not ours.

And why not?

# The makings of Deal II?

The Wall Street Journal categorized the Cuomo/Catacosino Shoreham closing arrangement as the "sweetheart deal of the century." It was that and more. The results have been devastating. Long Islanders pay the highest utility rates in the nation.

There have been several abortive efforts to take over the company. When the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) was first created, the various scenarios for a takeover were explored. It was believed that the company could have been taken over for about \$6 to \$9 per share.

During Mario Cuomo's 1994 reelection campaign, just six weeks before election day, he announced a proposed LILCO takeover at \$21 per share. Cuomo lost and the idea of taking over LILCO came to a screeching halt.

Richard Kessel, the ex-head of LIPA revived the idea of a LILCO takeover as his days were numbered as chairman. Kessel, voicing the details of a proposal by the then LIPA board members, floated a \$17 per share figure. Governor George Pataki has raised the specter of a public takeover through the new LIPA board, which is currently striving to formulate its own takeover plan.

Will Deal II be made over an expensive bottle of wine in a plush, Manhattan townhouse as Deal I was? Will Pataki be seduced as Cuomo was? Will the Wall Street Journal again report the second sweetheart deal of the century?

The public takeover of LILCO is the taking over of all the debt, obligations and obsolete plants that LILCO

owns. Why doesn't someone have the courage to go to the Public Service Commission and say, "this company has not lived up to its financial obligations to their ratepayers. The mismanagement of the company has developed rates that are 100% higher than the nation's average. They have a record of proving they cannot operate a utility efficiently or effectively, and therefore, the PSC should pull their license to operate a monopoly on Long Island." Without this utility license, a new company can be brought in to run the company. They would have to negotiate directly with LILCO to buy out their working assets if they so chose, or replace them if necessary. We doubt their stranded investment would be a saleable asset and would be returned to the stockholders who allowed it (the costs of

the Shoreham plan fiasco) to occur.

A utility license, or permission to operate, is a right granted by the state. It is not in perpetuity. In accepting the responsibility for a license, the management of the utility is expected to run the utility prudently. LILCO obviously has not. They have reneged on their fiduciary responsibilities and the ratepayers no longer can afford to bail them out.

There is a way out besides another bailout. Does Pataki have the courage to institute such an undertaking or will he be seduced by an expensive bottle of wine like his predecessor? The answer to that question holds the key to Long Island's future.

And why not?

*Once is enough*

## No More Revotes

When politicians run for office they either win or lose. When laws and bills come up for a vote, they either pass or fail. This is democracy. The closest vote residents have for controlling the government closest to them, their school district, is the furthest away from democracy.

School budgets are put up annually. When they are defeated, the school boards repeatedly put them up until voters are worn down, and they are passed. Why should this be? If the voters speak, shouldn't their will be carried out? Worse yet, many districts, under the guise of austerity and contingency budgets, spend more than would have been authorized by the budgets that were turned down.

Our state elected officials, assemblymen, senators and our governor can change this if there is the will to do so. Unfortunately, many of these elected officials only know us at election time and during the interval of two years between elections, ignore the voters. Maybe they ignore us because we ignore them.

When was the last time you contacted your assemblyman or senator? When was the last time they knew your feelings or you asked them to propose or support legislation that would be helpful to you, such as no revotes on school budgets.

The teacher union lobbies and their respective PACS are in Albany 365 days a year. They regularly are pushing the agenda of the establishment. They have the legislators' ears, because they put dollars in their campaign funds.

Often when we have been asked to speak, we end our presentation by making a plea to the audience to become involved in their government. Set aside an hour, a half hour or at least 15 minutes a month to write

and call your legislators. Let them know that you are out there. Let them know that while the lobbies provide campaign dollars, you cast the votes. Make them aware you are following what they do. Outline your areas of concern.

Will you pledge to spend an hour, a half hour or 15 minutes of your time each month keeping in touch with your elected officials? If we all did, we would have a better government. A government of the people, by the people and for the people.

And why not?

*In legislative vote*

## Democracy ignored

Suffolk County voters were recently denied a voice on an important issue by the actions of a Suffolk County Legislature committee. The bill, which would have given county residents an opportunity to decide the fate of future county affirmative action programs, died in the Legislative, Personnel and Government Operations Committee by a 3-2-1 vote.

The bill, sponsored by Legislator Joseph Rizzo (R-Islip Terrace), drew severe criticism during public hearings three weeks ago from community activists, minority leaders and area residents. Rizzo said he had sponsored the bill, which, if approved by voters, would have allowed Suffolk County to drop out of affirmative action hiring and education programs because he said he believes it is unfair to grant special preference to persons based on race, creed and nationality. Voting to place

the proposal on the ballot were Republicans Joseph Caracappa of Selden, Rizzo, and Michael D'Andre of Smithtown. Voting to deny the public vote were Democrats Brian Foley of Patchogue and George Guldi of Hampton Bays, while Herbert Davis (R-Shirley) abstained.

The issue of affirmative action is, indeed, a controversial one not only here in Suffolk County, but throughout our nation. The recent public hearing on this issue brought out a flood of opposition from those who support the continuance of the program, which offers minorities opportunities denied to others. Some spoke out in favor of ending the affirmative action concept, speaking out for a level playing field for all in job opportunities and special programs.

The proposal, stifled in the legislative committee, took no side in the issue. It called for a public referendum on the issue. It sought to offer

the voters a voice in an important matter. It offered democracy.

Those who opposed the bill are apparently fearful the public would not agree with their own point of view. They apparently feel the public does not have the wisdom, the sense of human concern, or even the right, to speak out on important issues of this nature. "We who are in public life know better than you what is good for you and so therefore we will make such decisions, not you," is the message they delivered with their vote.

That's a shame. If you agree that you really don't deserve a voice on important issues, you'll want to keep these legislators in place to protect you. But if you believe you have enough common sense and human concern to make the right decisions, and have a right to do so, you may want to consider replacing these 'no' voters.

And why not?



# Survival depends upon reform

It is sickening to be an employer and have applicants come before you who are high school graduates that cannot read, and do not understand basic math. You look at the applicant and wonder what they did during the 12 years that they were in school.

We have had many discussions with teachers and educators. They have almost unanimously said that discipline is the number one problem. Under our current system, one bad apple who is disruptive can ruin the education of the other 25 students in the class.

Social engineers have insisted that all children be mainstreamed and the disruptive ones be kept in class no

matter how injurious their behavior may be to their fellow students.

State education law requires every child to be in school through the twelfth grade or until their 21st birthday. Teachers and administrators must have the ability to weed out the incorrigibles. These students must be banned from the regular classroom. They must be segregated into separate schools or behavior modification programs within the school where they are sat on like a ton of bricks. Only when they learn social skills and can interact with others should they be allowed to return to regular classrooms.

The second major problem teachers often complain about is being

forced to pass students into the next grade even though they are not educationally equipped, and have not mastered that grade's curriculum. Teachers are pressured by the administration, and sometimes parents, to pass the kids through the system and this is wrong. It is particularly devastating in the first five grades where learning strategies and the basics of reading, writing, spelling, basic math and social studies are taught. More stringent standards and achievement levels should be established and adhered to.

Do we do Johnny any favor by passing him on to the second grade if he can't read on a first grade level? You just establish a pattern for future

frustration, and create a prescription for a lifetime of failure. School boards are anxious, for financial reasons, to get all kids out of school in their eighteenth year. They don't want the liability from either a financial or social standpoint of having 20 or 21-year-olds attending school.

Our school systems are broken. We are educating the majority of kids who graduate from school only on a seventh grade level in math and an eighth grade level in reading. The United States ranks fifty-ninth out of the sixty industrialized nations in the world with the lowest achievements of their students. Sure, we send bright kids off to college, those who have had the advantage of tutors and parents who have worked with them at home. But, all too many of these kids, when entering colleges, have to take remedial courses in the basics before they can take their first real college level course.

In many foreign countries, students coming out of the eighth grade must pass rigorous examinations in order to get into high school. If they fail, it is work for them or a trade school, if the parents can afford it. This is also true for kids coming out of Catholic grade schools. Before these students can be accepted into a Catholic high school, they must prove their competency and eligibility. In our public schools you are automatically enrolled in high school upon completion of the eighth grade. You are given four more years to flounder, to be ill prepared to enter the real world.

In America today there are only two kinds of jobs, technical jobs that require advanced education and training or low paying jobs in the service industries. These jobs are mostly dead end jobs which do not allow for growth or advancement.

The social engineers must move out of the classrooms and give the educational time back to the teachers. Standards must be set that are much higher than are currently called for and the students must be motivated to meet the challenge.

And why not?

## To honor our firefighters

# A meaningful thank you

Suffolk Life will publish, on October 4, a special section giving businesses an opportunity to thank and salute our volunteer firefighters. This will be published in conjunction with the parade hosted by Suffolk County to pay tribute. Not only will businesses be publishing their appreciation, but a portion of the funds raised will go to establishing a scholarship fund for an immediate member of a firefighter's family.

This week we were contacted by officials of Suffolk County Community College. They are joining hands with us and are making this a combined endeavor. We are reaching out to all residents who feel a debt to the volunteer firefighters who performed so heroically during the brush fires in Rocky Point and Westhampton.

Many people have asked us what

they can do. We encourage all our readers to participate in this firematic scholarship drive. If you would like to honor the firefighters for their volunteerism, we encourage you to contribute what you can to this dedicated scholarship fund.

Suffolk County Community College has an existing foundation and will administer the fund in conjunction with officials from Suffolk Life Newspapers and representatives from the county's Fire Chief's Council.

The scholarship will be a lasting memento of the communities' appreciation for the heroic actions of those who battled the flames of the wildfires.

Suffolk County Community College is one of the largest community colleges in the State of New York with

an enrollment of over 20,000 students. Many of these students are firefighters themselves and they will be eligible for this scholarship. Many other students' parents are members of the fire departments and they will also be eligible.

We hope that everyone who is able will donate something as an expression of their appreciation. You may send your donation to the Suffolk Life/Suffolk County Community College Firefighters Scholarship Fund. Donations should be made payable to Firefighters Fund: SCC Foundation, and sent to Suffolk Life/SCC Firefighters' Fund, C/O SCC Foundation, 533 College Road, Selden, NY 11784. Please indicate Suffolk Life/SCC Firefighters' Fund on your check.

Let's make this a huge success and provide more than one scholarship. And why not?

# Are we cooking our own goose?

Believe it or not, there is a shortage of Canadian geese. The Federal Wildlife Management Service has declared that the Canadian geese are in danger because of the drought in their traditional breeding places in Canada. This year, there will be no goose hunting season on Long Island. With few exceptions, the Wildlife Management Service has closed the entire North Atlantic Flyway.

This typical bureaucratic move comes out of Washington. Canadian geese on Long Island are more numerous than they have ever been. These

geese, which once migrated South for the winter, and North for the breeding season, have found Long Island lush pickings. They stay here year-round, breed and raise their young broods.

The geese live on our lakes, swamps and open waters. They feed on farms, golf courses and backyards. They have been known to breed their young in congested areas. They have been desensitized to humans.

Long Island Canadian geese are quickly running out of natural and unnatural habitats. For good conserva-

tion reasons, the flocks on Long Island need harvesting and thinning. If we are hit with an unusually cold winter, thousands of these geese will starve to death as there is not enough food to accommodate their needs.

Personally we love the sight of Canadian geese. Nothing thrills us more than hearing a flock flying high heading north or south. We love seeing them in their natural settings. A flock is a family and by instinct they protect each other. They have identifiable social habits, they mate for life and have a finely tuned family structure. They

are prolific breeders, producing from two to 14 new goslings each year.

When they used to migrate they were part of nature's harmony. Now that they have become permanent Long Island residents, their numbers must be reduced by regulated hunting. The feds failure to take into account the nature of our residential flocks is a mistake. These geese will outstrip their food supply and die of starvation. The feds should take a look at the residential Long Island population and open a special hunting season.

And why not?